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BOOK REVIEWS

EDITED BY W. B. MUNRO

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Government and Politics of France. By EDWARD MCCHESENEY SAIT. (Yonkers-on-Hudson: World Book Company. Pp. xv, 478.)

Contemporary French Politics. By RAYMOND LESLIE BUELL. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. Pp. xxvii, 523.)

The dearth of books in English dealing in an acceptable way with the government and politics of France has been remedied in a notable degree by the almost simultaneous appearance of these two volumes. Each book supplements the other, and the two, taken together, give a full and satisfactory account of the republic's governmental system and of its parties and political issues. Professor Sait's volume belongs to the Government Handbooks series, which already included creditable books on the political systems of the United States, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. With a view to a full and systematic description of the structure and workings of the governmental system with which he deals, the author devotes one chapter to the constitution, eight chapters to executive, legislative, and judicial organization and procedure, one chapter to local government and administration, and two chapters to political parties and electoral activities, including a survey of party history during the past half-century. The method of treatment is conventional, but it is hard to see how it would be improved upon. Careful use has been made, not only of the standard treatises of Esmein, Duguit, Noël, Berthélemy, and Chardon, but of numerous monographs, articles and source materials, and an excellent classified bibliography is presented at the end of the volume. The book is written in a dignified, but vivid, style and is embellished with illustrations in keeping with its general quality.

Mr. Buell's volume deals with other matters, and is of a wholly different character. The author is a young scholar who went to France as a member of the American Expeditionary Force, and who, following

his period of active service, made a rapid, yet extensive, study of French political ideas and attitudes, drawing his information partly from the press and partly from interviews with representative men of various classes and affiliations. His book treats of three matters chiefly: political parties and how they function in Parliament, current movements for political reform, and French opinion on the peace settlement and the League of Nations. The description of parties is notable mainly for an excellent account of the parliamentary election of 1919; although it may be added that the emphasis laid upon the elements of continuity in party organization will aid in correcting the prevalent notion that there are no true political parties in France. The movements for political reform which receive fullest attention are "regionalism," the representation of professions in political bodies, and the demand for a new constitution doing away with the cabinet system and substituting a government modeled on that of the United States. The discussion of French ideas on the nature of the peace and on the League of Nations traverses ground now generally familiar, although there are some fresh and illuminating citations of opinion as it has found expression in the French press; and a final chapter on the attitude of France toward American "idealism" is an exceptionally clear bit of analysis. The book bears occasional evidence of the author's immaturity, and the proof reading has been poorly done. Taken as a whole, however, the volume is a welcome contribution to the literature of a subject upon which the French have themselves written curiously little.

FREDERIC A. OGG.

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Studies in History and Politics. By the Right Honorable HERBERT FISHER. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. Pp. 213.)

Of eleven essays presented in this volume, all except one were written before the author entered official life, and all except two were first published in the *Quarterly Review* or other English journals. Half of them are nominal book reviews—in reality, independent discussions suggested by certain books, after the English manner—and in their subjects they range all the way from Ammianus Marcellinus, the last of the Latin historians, to the political writings of Rousseau, Ollivier's memoirs, and the historical work of Lord Acton. The chief characteristics of these papers seem to be philosophic grasp and independence of judgment. The essay on Rousseau, for example, presents a view of the